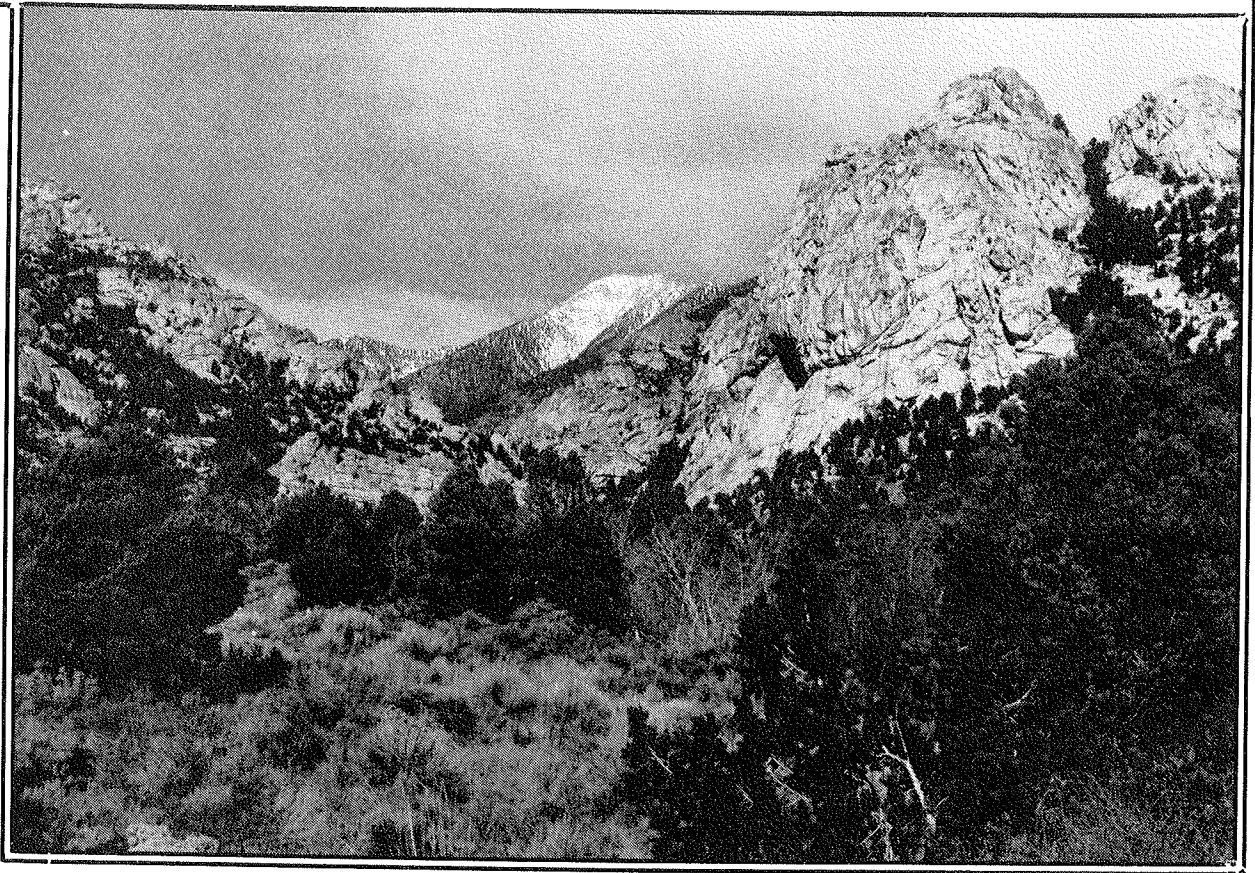


# Deep Creek Mountains WSA



Deep Creek Mountains WSA

Proposal

UT-050-020/020-060

RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

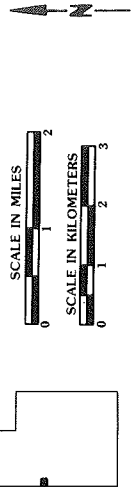
RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS

LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

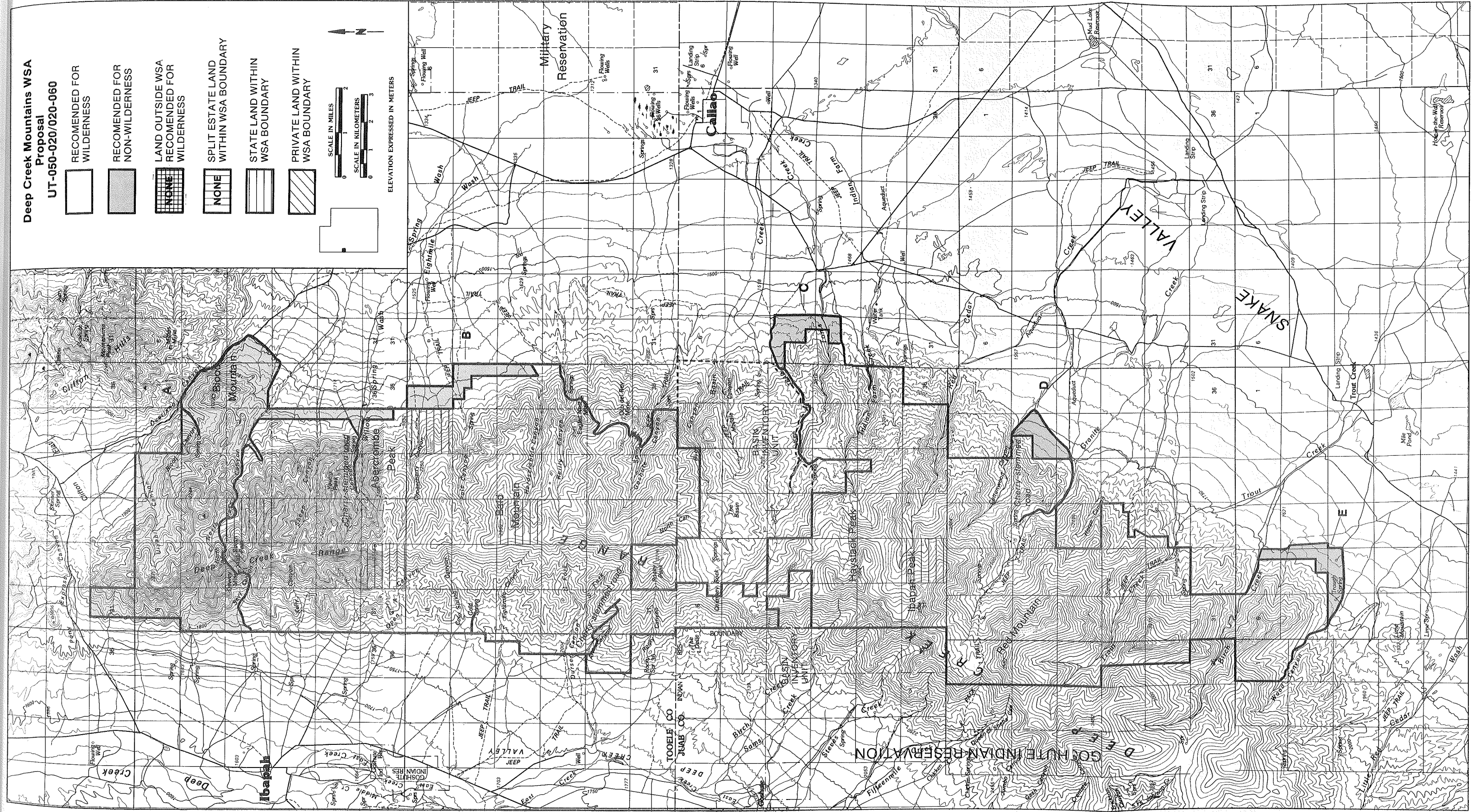
SPLIT ESTATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY

STATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY

PRIVATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY



ELEVATION EXPRESSED IN METERS



# DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

## 1. THE STUDY AREA: 68,910 acres

The Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-020-060, UT-050-020) is in southwestern Tooele County and northwestern Juab County, about 80 miles from Tooele, Utah (population 14,335) in Tooele County and 90 miles from Nephi, Utah (population 3,285) in Juab County. The WSA contains about 68,910 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). About 38,170 acres are in Tooele County and 30,740 acres are in Juab County. The study area is about 28 miles long, north to south, and varies from 1 to 7 miles in width (see Map). The WSA includes 5 sections (3,208 acres) of in-held State lands and 40 acres of private lands, but no split-estate lands (see Table 1).

The WSA is bounded on the southwest by the Goshute Indian Reservation. Most of the boundary is along section and subsection lines which are adjacent to the edge of the mountain range. The WSA excludes most existing developments and non-Federal property adjacent to the Deep Creek Mountains. Unimproved roads define parts of the eastern and southern boundaries.

The WSA includes most of the Deep Creek Mountains, a 30-mile long north-south trending mountain range that rises from about 4,000 feet elevation on the desert floor to a ridge of 8,000 to 10,000 feet, capped by two 12,000-foot peaks. Vegetation varies with elevation from sagebrush at the lower elevations through pinyon and juniper to montane forest.

TABLE 1  
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA\*

WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	68,910
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	3,248
Total	72,158
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	57,384
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	57,384
In-holdings (State, private)	3,248
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	11,526
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	11,526
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

\* The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

## DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

White fir and bristlecone pine grow at the higher elevations. The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness, where 57,384 acres would be designated as wilderness and 11,526 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report; a no wilderness (no action) alternative; and an all wilderness alternative.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

57,384 acres

(recommended for wilderness)

11,526 acres

(recommended for nonwilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 57,384 acres as wilderness and to release the remaining 11,526 acres for uses other than wilderness. Designation of the entire area as wilderness is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however, would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. This recommendation for wilderness will further apply to any additional in-holding acreage acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides information on acquisition.

All of the proposed area is natural and has outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Many vantage points provide panoramic views of the desert. The likelihood of mineral discovery within the area recommended for wilderness designation is less than in the surrounding area because the geologic environment is such that most mineral deposits are in the outer portions of the Deep Creek Mountains. Because potential mineral resources are not as probable in the recommended portion of the WSA, where wilderness values are high, mineral values are considered to

be of less importance than wilderness values.

Designation of a portion of the WSA would result in fewer conflicts with existing and potential uses than would designation of the entire WSA. In the portion not recommended for wilderness designation, mineral resources are known to exist and wilderness values are generally less significant than in the higher parts of the range. BLM, therefore, considers mineral values to be of greater importance than wilderness values in the portions of the WSA that are not recommended for wilderness. Most of the off-highway vehicular (OHV) recreation in the WSA, about 5,000 visitor days annually, is in the area that would not be designated. Small areas in the southeastern part of the WSA (Areas C, D, and E) lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and have low scenic interest.

Designation of all or part of the WSA would add to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada by complementing the wilderness system geographically and adding an unusual combination of potential natural vegetation (PNV) types.

The basin portion of the Deep Creek Mountains was excluded from the Deep Creek Mountains WSA because it contained a large amount of private land. Since the original inventory, most of the private land was purchased by the Nature Conservancy (3,210 acres) and then exchanged with BLM for land in another area. There are still two parcels of private land (480 acres) that lie adjacent to the unit.

The acquisition of the 3,210 acres also made it logical to include another 3,780 acres in the unit for a total of 6,990 acres. The unit appears to have wilderness characteristics. The 6,990-acre area is large enough to qualify as a wilderness by itself, but because of its location, it is only logical to extend the boundary of the existing WSA to include the Basin inventory unit. BLM recommends that Congress consider addition of the Basin inventory unit for wilderness designation along with the original Deep Creek Mountains WSA.

## DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

### 3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

#### Wilderness Characteristics

##### A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable.

Rising from the desert floor at an elevation of 4,800 feet to peaks over 12,000 feet high, the Deep Creek Mountains are Utah's most spectacular West Desert range. The contrast between the white granite of Ibapah and Haystack peaks and the colorful talus slopes of Red Mountain make the range both scenic and geologically unique. These steep, rocky, glacially scoured peaks often hold snow well into summer. For all their ruggedness, the Deep Creek Mountains also contain alpine meadows and forested canyons.

The enormous vertical relief (greater than that of the Teton Range from Jackson Hole) creates a variety of ecological conditions that foster biological diversity unmatched in Utah's desert mountains. Eight perennial streams flow from the rough-hewn canyons, allowing deer, elk, bighorn sheep, cougar, bobcat, coyote, and other wildlife to flourish. Antelope roam in small bands along the benchlands surrounding the mountains. Due to their isolation from other similar environments, the Deep Creek Mountains also support several plant and animal species found nowhere else.

Slightly more than 98 percent of the WSA is in an essentially natural condition. The entire 68,910 acres of Federal land meet the Wilderness Act criteria for naturalness.

Altogether, mine workings and associated structures and roads comprise approximately 1,000 acres of surface disturbance within the WSA. About 15 miles of ways and jeep trails, totaling 36 acres of disturbed land, extend up several canyons into the WSA. Approximately 5 miles in the southern portion of the WSA

are now closed to use, however, in accordance with the House Range Resource Management Plan (BLM Richfield District). Total surface disturbance aggregates about 1.7 percent of the WSA. This portion is excluded from the area recommended for wilderness.

##### B. Solitude

Topographic and vegetation screening are excellent, and visitors can easily find seclusion in approximately 87 percent of the WSA. All of the portion recommended for wilderness would have this quality. Opportunities for solitude in the central portion of the Deep Creek Mountains are considered outstanding.

Juniper-grasslands along the lower benchlands and adjacent to the northern boundary of the WSA provide little opportunity for solitude. About 9 percent of the WSA (6,546 acres) lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The Deep Creek Mountains WSA is within the South Range of the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR), one of the busiest military air spaces in the country. At least 100 to 150 flights are made daily, 6 days a week, including some as low as 100 feet above the ground. The areas of greatest use include the Deep Creek Mountains. Most overflights in this area are subsonic and are usually not directly over the WSA, but the overflights cause sight and sound intrusions that detract from but do not eliminate overall opportunities for solitude.

##### C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

More than 90 percent of the WSA (62,364 acres) meets the requirements for primitive recreation set by the Wilderness Act, and recreational experiences are potentially of very high quality. All of the portion recommended for wilderness would meet these standards.

Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, nature study, and sightseeing. Availability of water enhances hiking and horseback riding activities and allows recreationists to spend more time in the WSA. Fishing could be a supplemental activity for

## DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

hikers and campers. Approximately 11.5 miles of fisheries in the WSA are habitat for rainbow and cutthroat trout. Hunting is mostly for deer, cougars, and chukar partridge. Opportunities for biological and geological observations and specimen collecting are good, and opportunities for photography are rated as excellent.

The open slopes and sagebrush flats at lower elevations, comprising 6,546 acres of the WSA, do not offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

### D. Special Features

The high mountain peaks are distinguishing features and exceed in elevation all but two mountains in the Great Basin.

Approximately 36 percent (24,951 acres) of the WSA are rated outstanding for visual quality.

Twelve archaeological sites were found in the WSA during inventories in 1976 and 1977. Most of the sites are open lithic scatters and rockshelters and indicate semipermanent occupancy, possibly continuously, over a range of 8,500 years, and represent cultures from Paleo-Indian to prehistoric Shoshoni. None of the sites are on or are nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Utah cutthroat trout, giant stonefly, bristlecone pine, archaeological sites, and possibly the grapefern are among the special features in the WSA. In addition, the WSA has a wide variety of wildlife species, including the endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon, six sensitive bird species, and a wide variety of flora.

Two streams in the Deep Creek Mountains are inhabited by a pure strain of Utah cutthroat trout, Salmo clarki Utah. These trout are remnants of a species that inhabited Lake Bonneville, a freshwater lake that once covered most of western Utah and part of Nevada and receded to become the Great Salt Lake. The trout is considered to be sensitive and is a candidate as an endangered species.

The giant stonefly is in most of the streams of the Deep Creek Mountains. Although abundant in streams on the Pacific Slope, the stonefly is uncommon in Utah.

The WSA is exceptional because it has representatives from several different floras. Plant species from the Pine Valley Mountains 200 miles to the south and the Utah Plateaus and Wasatch Range 100 miles to the north and east occur in the Deep Creek Mountains.

Three stands of bristlecone pine have been found in the WSA. Bristlecone pines in the Great Basin are noted for their longevity. The age of the trees in the WSA has not yet been determined, but some of the trees approach the size and appearance of trees in California's Methuselah Grove, home of the world's oldest living trees. Large stands of young bristlecone pines provide the WSA with a self-perpetuating community of significant interest. The grapefern was originally found growing above the 10,000-foot level in Indian Farm Creek Canyon in 1944. The fern has not been found since, but may still exist in the WSA. The grapefern is normally found in the northern United States and is unusual as far south as the Deep Creek Mountains. Three additional special status plant species also may occur in the WSA.

Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Vegetation and Wildlife Including Special Status Species sections of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS for additional information.

### Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

#### A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would add a combination of PNV ecosystems that is not presently represented in Utah or in the NWPS.

PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

## DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

The WSA is in the Intermountain Sagebrush Province/Ecoregion. The PNV types in the WSA are juniper-pinyon woodland (25,000 acres), western ponderosa forest (23,910 acres), Great Basin sagebrush (14,000 acres), and saltbush-greasewood (6,000 acres). Although all four PNV ecosystems are individually represented in the NWPS, only juniper-pinyon woodland is listed in the NWPS in Utah and the combination of all four is rare nationwide.

This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

### B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is within a 5-hour drive of the Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah; Provo-Orem, Utah; and Las Vegas, Nevada standard metropolitan statistical areas. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM

study areas within a 5-hour drive of these population centers.

### C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas:

The Deep Creek Mountains would not contribute significantly to balancing the overall central western United States geographic distribution of areas within the NWPS. It could contribute, however, to balancing the NWPS in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada.

As of January 1987, the NWPS included 23 areas comprising 4,868,316 acres in Utah and the adjacent states of Idaho and Nevada.

The only designated wilderness area within 100 miles of the WSA is the 25,500-acre Deseret Peak Wilderness (Wasatch National Forest), to the northeast. No wilderness areas are near the WSA to the north, south, or west.

**TABLE 2  
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION**

	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
<b>BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)</b>				
<b>NATIONWIDE (INTERMOUNTAIN SAGEBRUSH PROVINCE)</b>				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	6	93,656	75	2,128,907
Western Ponderosa Forest	5	102,151	2	12,575
Great Basin Sagebrush	1	32,407	56	1,205,275
Saltbush-Greasewood	3	45,553	37	1,025,607
<b>UTAH (INTERMOUNTAIN SAGEBRUSH PROVINCE)</b>				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	2,600	13	234,433
Western Ponderosa Forest	0	0	0	0
Great Basin Sagebrush	0	0	1	6,405
Saltbush-Greasewood	0	0	7	140,845

Source: BLM File Data.

# DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

TABLE 3  
WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

POPULATION CENTERS	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	11	1,099,962	78	2,190,765
Provo-Orem, Utah	11	721,793	90	2,717,958
Las Vegas, Nevada	38	3,132,130	54	2,134,358

Source: BLM File Data.

In the Great Basin, there are only six designated wilderness areas totaling 272,994 acres. Only three wilderness areas in the NWPS have the same combination and diversity of PNV ecosystems as the Deep Creek Mountains, and all three are in California (see "Expanding the Diversity of Natural Ecosystems . . ."). If designated, a Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness would supplement the distribution of wilderness in the Great Basin.

Manageability (The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness can be managed as wilderness to preserve values now present in the area. Up to 18 acres (0.03 percent of the area recommended for designation) could be disturbed by activity on valid mining claims and for access to in-held State and private lands, but approval of mining operation plans would be required and access would have to be implemented in a manner least detrimental to wilderness values.

There are no mineral leases or other valid rights in the WSA.

There are five sections of State land (3,208 acres) and one tract of private land (40 acres) within the WSA. All of the State and private land would be in the area recommended for designation. The probability of development on these lands is low in the foreseeable future. Therefore, provision of access to these lands is not expected to be a manageability problem.

The USAF has stated that low level military overflights will continue in the UTTR, including the Deep Creek Mountains, regardless of whether or not the WSA is designated as wilderness. Overflights by military aircraft, therefore, would continue, unless the USAF modifies its policies, and would be an occasional annoyance that would detract from opportunities for solitude. This conflict can be resolved only at the Congressional level.

The area not recommended for wilderness designation also could be managed as wilderness. Mineral exploration and mining activity in the northern portion of the WSA under prior rights, however, could not be denied and would require special management to assure maximum possible protection of wilderness values.

If the portion that is not recommended for wilderness designation is released for uses other than wilderness, however, these developments as well as ORV use could proceed. About 29 percent (3,320 acres) of the part of the WSA that is not recommended for wilderness designation has mining claims, compared with only 4 percent (2,280 acres) in the recommended portion. More attention to management of mineral-related activities, therefore, would be necessary in the portion of the WSA not being recommended for wilderness designation.

## Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) prepared a mineral assessment report for the Deep

## DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Creek Mountains WSA (USGS Bulletin 1745-C, Michael P. Foose, et al., 1989).

According to the report, 11 areas of mineralized rock in and near the study area were evaluated by the USBM. Four of these areas contain identified resources: (1) an indicated resource of 5,000 short tons of 16.5 ounces of silver per short ton, 4.1 percent lead, 4.6 percent zinc, and 0.25 percent copper, at the Willow Springs area, which is almost surrounded by the study area in the northeast corner although it is not part of the study area; (2) an indicated gold resource of 774,000 short tons of 0.4 ounces per short ton and an inferred gold resource of 5.7 million short tons of 0.4 ounces per short ton in the Goshute Canyon area immediately east of the WSA; (3) an indicated gold resource of 75,000 short tons of 0.22 ounces per short ton in the Queen of Sheba mine just west of the study area; and (4) an inferred gold resource of 3,800 tons of 0.26 ounces per short ton in the Gold Bond area immediately east of the WSA. Gold resources at the Queen of Sheba mine and at the Gold Bond area are too low grade to warrant an economic evaluation. The small tonnage and thin vein width of the deposit at the Willow Springs area combine to make that deposit subeconomic.

Much of the WSA contains vast quantities of limestone, dolomite, and quartzite. The limestone and dolomite are suitable for agricultural uses, and the quartzite is suitable for use in the production of eighth- and ninth-quality amber glass. These commodities are not likely to be mined in the foreseeable future because the study area is so remote.

Most of the study area has moderate to high potential for undiscovered tungsten, mercury, gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, molybdenum, tin, and (or) beryllium resources. The entire study area has low potential for undiscovered uranium, thorium, oil, gas, coal, and geothermal resources.

According to BLM geologists, there are no known deposits of oil and gas in the WSA. The WSA contains deposits of gold, silver, mercury, zinc, lead, tungsten, barite, fluorite, and beryllium. The WSA is in a recognized mineral belt (Deep

Creek-Tintic), and is in or near four mining districts. Gold, silver, lead, zinc, tungsten, and mercury have been mined within 1 mile of the Deep Creek Mountains WSA. Deposits of these metals are known to exist in the northern, western, and eastern margins of the WSA, mostly in the portion not recommended for wilderness designation. The greatest potential for finding additional deposits of metallic minerals is along the northern, western, and eastern sides of the WSA, mostly in the portion not recommended for wilderness designation.

### Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 4) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives including designation or nondesignation of the entire area as wilderness.

### Local Social and Economic Considerations

No significant effect on local economy is expected to result from wilderness designation. Mining could occur, with measures taken to mitigate impacts on wilderness values. Most mines in the vicinity of the WSA have had only small numbers of employees. Livestock grazing use could continue as it is currently, and no economic change would result from wilderness designation. Recreational use is projected to increase up to 10 times the current use over the next 30 years with a related increase in local income derived from recreation, but this projection is based mostly on population increase and may or may not be affected by wilderness designation. No social issues were identified in the study of this WSA.

### Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 196 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 308 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on

## DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as an additional input or signature. Each individual was credited with one signature or testimony regardless of the number of inputs.

In general, 187 commenters supported the wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 114 commenters were opposed. Seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS, but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented particularly on the special features in the WSA. The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness were from Utah, and about 67 percent were from urban areas in the state. Of particular concern was the need to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness designation would preclude access, is not compatible with multiple use, and that other kinds of management would be adequate and less restrictive. No particular affiliation was identified for the majority who opposed wilderness designation.

Three Federal agencies, the USAF, USBM, and National Park Service (NPS), commented on the Draft EIS for this WSA. The Federal agencies did not take a position regarding designation or non-designation of the WSA. The USAF noted that low altitude flights will continue over the WSA with or without wilderness designation and that they will not negotiate nor sign any agreement to avoid the proposed wilderness area. This conflict can be resolved only on the Congressional level.

The USBM noted that the BLM's Final EIS should include the findings of the USGS and USBM mineral investigations and those findings would be available in November 1988. These findings have been incorporated into the Final EIS and study report.

The NPS recommended that BLM identify the WSA as a proposed National Natural Landmark.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are five State sections (3,208 acres) in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation but did not take a definite position regarding wilderness designation of the WSA. The State noted that the Deep Creek Mountains WSA has the highest wilderness value of all the West Desert WSAs but has potential for mineral development, present and proposed water developments, and wildlife issues that would present conflicts. The State supports designation of the Deep Creek Mountains as an Outstanding Natural Area. Specific State comments on the Draft EIS dealt with proposed stream stabilization projects for endangered trout, inadequacies of the geology discussion, the age of bristlecone pine trees in the WSA, the presence of endangered plant species, and mule deer population estimates.

Tooele County and Juab County are both opposed to wilderness designation for the Deep Creek Mountains WSA.

According to the Tooele County Commission, wilderness designation would be in direct conflict with the Tooele County Master Plan and current zoning designations which were developed and adopted many years before any wilderness proposals were considered.

The Juab County Commission generally prefers that open spaces be used for many purposes on public lands.

# DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WSA

Table 4  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topics	Alternatives		
	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (57,384 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (68,910 Acres)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness values would be preserved overall in the designated area which is about 80 percent of the WSA. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 86 acres of the WSA, and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to 13,782 acres, due to mining operations and rangeland projects. Vehicular use of 1.5 miles of ways would continue to detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Special features would be preserved.	Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 86 acres, and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to 13,782 acres due to mining operations and rangeland projects. Vehicular use of about 10 miles of ways would continue to detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Special features would not be significantly affected.	Wilderness values would be preserved overall. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 36 acres and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to 6,891 acres, due to mining operations and rangeland projects. Special features would be preserved.
Impacts on Water Resources	Water quality or uses would not be affected because proposed and projected developments would be compatible with wilderness management or the perennial streams that headwater in the WSA.	Water quality would not be affected because mitigation would be required and developments would not be in the vicinity of perennial streams. Water use would not be affected because any developments could be implemented without wilderness considerations.	Water quality or uses would not be affected because proposed and projected developments would be compatible with wilderness management or the perennial streams that headwater in the WSA.
Impacts on Mineral and Energy Exploration and Production	This alternative would not significantly adversely affect mineral and energy exploration and development because most of the known mineralization would be in the nondesignated area.	Mineral and energy exploration would not be adversely affected. Portions of the WSA would be open to exploration and development of mineral and energy resources.	Exploration and development of locatable minerals would be limited and production of significant locatable minerals would be foregone. Loss of leasable mineral production would not be significant because of low probability of development.

# DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WSA

Table 4 (Continued)  
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topics	Alternatives		
	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (57,384 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (68,910 Acres)
Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations	Effects would be the same as for the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative.	Less than 1 percent (86 acres) of wildlife habitat in the WSA would be affected. Wildlife populations would not be significantly reduced.	Wildlife habitat would be lost on less than 1 percent (36 acres) of the WSA. Populations would not be significantly reduced. Big game and other species would be protected.
Impacts on Livestock Management	Livestock grazing would be about the same as for the All Wilderness Alternative because 82 percent of the forage, 0.50 mile of the existing ways, and all 17 permittees would be affected.	Livestock grazing would not be affected.	Changes in livestock management would inconvenience 17 livestock permittees. There would be a slight increase in predation on livestock.
Impacts on Recreation	The quality of primitive recreation would be protected in the designated area. Future recreational use would be mostly primitive in nature. Recreation use may initially decrease but would eventually increase above existing levels.	The quality of primitive recreation would not be protected. Both primitive and motorized recreation use would increase.	The quality of primitive recreation would be protected throughout the WSA. Vehicular use would be eliminated. Overall, recreational use may initially decrease but would eventually increase above existing levels.
Impacts on Economic Conditions	Local and regional economic conditions would not be significantly affected. Recreation-related expenditures would contribute to the local economy.	Local and regional economic conditions would not be significantly affected. Recreation-related expenditures would contribute to the local economy.	Wilderness designation would not significantly affect local economic conditions because significant changes are not expected in population, employment, and income. Recreation-related expenditures would contribute to the local economy.

# DEEP CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix  
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation a

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 9 S., R. 18 W., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 9 S., R. 18 W., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 10 S., T. 18 W., Sec. 2	647.80		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 10 S., R. 18 W., Sec. 16	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 11 S., R. 18 W., Sec. 32	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 11 S., R. 18 W., Sec. 21	40.00		Private	No	Purchase	\$2,400 to \$3,200	\$1,000

a The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.